

However, Blanford (1891) states: ' . . . there is no evidence as to the locality whence came the few vertebrae to which Anderson (*An. Zool. Res.* : 564) gave the name of *B. blythii*, it is uncertain whether these bones are of Indian or even of Asiatic origin.'

Besides this, there are reports of two more strandings, one by S. H. Prater (1914), and the other by V. K. Chari (1950). Both were identified as *B. indica* (= *B. musculus*) but seem nearer to *B. physalus* (see C. A. Gibson-Hill 1950 and J. C. Daniel 1963). In the absence of information as to the number and the extent of the pleats, their identity cannot be satisfactorily established.

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
HORNBILL HOUSE,  
BOMBAY 1-BR,  
December 27, 1965.

B. ROBERT GRUBH  
M. J. PEREIRA

## REFERENCES

- BLANFORD, W. T. (1891) : The Fauna of British India. Mammals: 567.  
 CHARI, V. K. (1951) : The Great Indian Rorqual or Fin Whale *Balaenoptera indica* Blyth off Umargam. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 50 (1) : 161.  
 DANIEL, J. C. (1963) : Stranding of a Blue Whale *Balaenoptera musculus* (Linn.) near Surat, Gujarat, with notes on earlier literature. *ibid.* 60 (1) : 252.  
 ELLERMAN, J. R., & MORRISON-SCOTT, T. C. S. (1951) : Checklist of Palearctic and Indian Mammals. British Museum, London.  
 GIBSON-HILL, C. A. (1950) : A note on the Rorquals *Balaenoptera* spp. *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 49 (1) : 14.  
 PRATER, S. H. (1914) : Note on a stranded Great Indian Fin Whale (*Balaenoptera indica*) at Ratnagiri. *ibid.* 23 (3) : 576.

## 9. THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE [*PODICEPS CRISTATUS* (LINNAEUS)] IN KUTCH

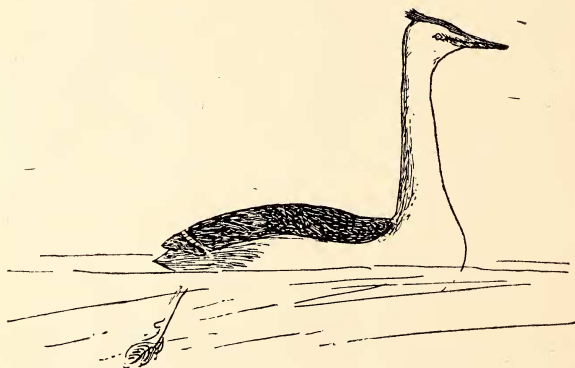
(With two text-figures)

Since the days of F. Stoliczka and A. O. Hume in the 19th century some of the birds listed by them from Kutch have not been seen or recorded by any one. The credit for the discovery of one such bird goes to His Highness the Maharao Saheb of Kutch, my brother, who informed me on 23 May that he had seen six birds on the Rudramata Dam (9 miles from Bhuj) which he thought he had never seen in Kutch. Keen sportsman and experienced observer that he is, his apt and exact description of the plumage of the birds, their behaviour, and so on helped me to identify them at once as Great Crested Grebes [*Podiceps cristatus* (Linnaeus)]. When I went to Rudramata Dam that evening I failed to see them. However, on May 27 I went again with my brother and had the luck to see the six birds, and so any doubt I had in

my mind about their identity was dispelled. I failed to collect a specimen for the Society, as the grebes kept on swimming and diving out of range of my gun.



Summer



Winter

Dharmakumarsinhji (BIRDS OF SAURASHTRA, p. 4) says that Bulkley records a pair having bred at Kharaghoda in August, but it is not mentioned in which year the pair was observed breeding. Although this is by no means an unusual occurrence in Kutch as this bird is said to visit Sind (West Pakistan) as well, it can very well be put among the rare visitors. Stuart Baker (FAUNA OF BRITISH INDIA 6 : 479) also mentioned a breeding record in Karachi. So I shall not be surprised if the Great Crested Grebe breeds in Kutch too once in a while.

JUBILEE GROUND,  
BHUJ, KUTCH,  
June 12, 1965.

M. K. HIMMATSINHJI

[The Great Crested Grebe is an irregular but not unusual winter visitor to India, reaching south as far as Kathiawar in the west and Puri (Orissa) in the east. It breeds in large numbers in the lakes of Ladakh and Tibet, rarely in the Vale of Kashmir, and sporadically in the plains, having been recorded from Karachi, Oudh, and the Doab. Bulkley's record from Kharaghoda relates to the year 1891 (*J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 6: 501).

In the hope that our readers may be encouraged to keep a look-out for the bird we give an illustration and a short description: An aquatic bird, distinguishable from the duck by its pointed bill, thin neck, lobed feet, and tiny tail. Size of adult (from tip of bill to tip of tail) 19 inches. Dark crown and short or incipient ear-tufts. White stripe over eye. Grey-brown upper parts. Satiny white lower parts. In summer, expansible chestnut and black frill on side of head. Juveniles and nestlings, striped black and white.—Eds. ]

10. NOTES ON INDIAN BIRDS 6—THE OCCURRENCE OF THE PYGMY CORMORANT [*HALIIETOR (PHALACROCORAX) PYGMEUS* (PALLAS)] IN BALUCHISTAN. AN ADDITION TO THE AVIFAUNA OF PAKISTAN

While going over the ornithological collections of the Bombay Natural History Society, a report on which is under preparation, we found a specimen of the Pygmy Cormorant [*Halietor (Phalacrocorax) pygmeus* (Pallas)] bearing register No. 15009 and the following data:

3200 Gujar, Mashkai [?] 165 m. SSW of Kalat  
[on] 3.9.17. Collected by Capt. J.E.B.H. [otson].

This bird along with two others from Amara, Persian Gulf, and Enzil, Gilan, N. Persia, though marked *Phalacrocorax pygmeus* on the labels were listed under *Phalacrocorax niger*, an error which one of us (H.A.) had noticed some years ago and marked in the register. He however overlooked the fact that one of them was from Baluchistan and constituted an addition to the avifauna of Pakistan. The thicker bill, the brown head, and the curious filoplumes scattered over the neck and lower parts are very distinctive.

75, ABDUL REHMAN STREET,  
BOMBAY 3-BR,

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,  
HORNBILL HOUSE,  
BOMBAY 1-BR,  
September 27, 1965.

M. J. PEREIRA